

REMARKS

Response to Restriction Requirement

This response responds to the office communication mailed July 17, 2008. The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. § 121 and § 372:

- I. Claims 1-21, stated by the Examiner as being drawn to a Combination (Support System); or
- II. Claims 22-32, stated by the Examiner as being drawn to a Sub-Combination (Support Element).

Examiner indicates that the inventions listed as Groups I and II above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the Combination does not require the special technical feature of the Sub-Combination (i.e., the bottom side of the support element is provided with depressed areas shaped to receive the thrust of gas flows), and thus, the Combination and the Sub-Combination do not have a special technical feature in common.

In responding to this Restriction Requirement, even with traverse, Applicant is required to elect one species or invention, along with the identification of the claims encompassing the elected species or invention. Accordingly, Applicant provisionally elects the invention of Group II (claims 22-32), with traverse.

Applicant traverses the restriction as Applicant feels that no serious burden on the Examiner exists. If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, then it must be examined on the merits. M.P.E.P. §803. In light of the amendments made herein (described below), Applicant respectfully asserts the claims of Group I (claims 1-21) and Group II (claims 22-32) are sufficiently related by which a thorough search of the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search of the subject matter of both Groups I and II.

Amendment

This response amends claims 1, 8, and 16. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-32 will be pending.

Applicant acknowledges the restriction of the pending claims and has provisionally elected claims 22-32 with traverse. By this response, Applicant amends claim 1 of Group I to now include all the limitations of claim 22 of Group II, thereby making claim 22 generic to claim 1. Accordingly, with the other claims of Group I (claims 2-21) each including all the limitations of claim 1, such other claims are found to now further include all the limitations of generic claim 22. Therefore, in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.141, Applicant respectfully requests that claims 1-21 of Group I be contemporaneously examined on the merits with claims 22-32 of Group II.

Applicant believes that no new matter will be introduced by entry of these amendments and that the amendments are fully supported by the specification and application as a whole. Applicant has amended the claims solely to advance prosecution of this application and to obtain the allowance of claims at the earliest possible date. No admission should be inferred by these amendments. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the originally filed claims in a continuation application.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

For any fees which are deemed necessary following filing of this response, the undersigned hereby authorizes such fees to be charged to our deposit account, Deposit Account No. 061910.

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Parzych
Reg. No. 52,097
(612) 492-7279

Customer No. 22859
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
200 South Sixth Street, Suite 4000
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1425 USA
Telephone: (612) 492-7000
Facsimile: (612) 492-7077

4414181_1.DOC